

EXTRA

STANDARD'S GRIP.

Peculiar Business Methods of the Big Oil Trust.

No Trace of the Hundreds of Concerns It Has Absorbed.

Gen. Pryor Makes Some Very Interesting Discoveries—The Most Important Reports were in the Shape of Loose Memoranda Which were Destroyed When Approved—Night Records of Great Transactions Since 1882—Pumping Secretary Archbold.

After ascertaining that there was nothing in the minute book of the Board of Trustees which they cared to conceal, the officers of the Standard Oil Trust offered it for the inspection of a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on General Laws, consisting of Chairman Arnold and Senator Linsion.

The sub-committee inspected the book last evening. With reference to the result, Senator Linsion told THE EVENING WORLD reporter that the book was evidently intended to be seen.

The sub-committee had been able to get from it a full list of the companies controlled by the trust, and learned that there was a committee of the board, with vague powers, whose reports were never spread on the minutes.

As to the question of a report, Senator Ives said that the members of the committee appear to be of the same mind with reference to the character of the report to be made.

Sensors Arnold, Coggeshall and Linsion made similar statements.

John D. Archbold, Secretary of the Standard Oil Trust, was also testified as to the freight discriminations in favor of the Standard Oil Company as shown by the Hepburn report. He also produced a copy of the Trust's by-laws and the properties controlled by it.

These properties appear to be only the corporations, and as these corporations have swallowed up the properties of hundreds of other corporations, partnerships and individuals, the committee was unable to secure a list of all the properties involved.

Gen. Pryor proceeded to turn a bit of information from the witness-book submitted to the sub-committee by the trust yesterday was but a mere skeleton, and that the information which was desired is contained in another book, in which is set forth at length the reports of committees whose powers are so vaguely referred to in the minute book.

This book contains the reports of the Executive Committee, and, since the abandonment of that body, the reports of a "proxy committee" consisting of H. M. Flagler, Chas. R. and John D. Archbold.

Gen. Pryor will see these books. A. I. will consult with counsel before answering.

Choate objected to the production of the book, but at the suggestion of Chairman Arnold agreed that a sub-committee might make it.

By the by-laws the Executive Committee as required to keep minutes of its proceedings. In the minutes of the Board of Trustees there appears the entry at each meeting of the approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Archbold testified that those minutes had been kept in the form of memoranda, which had been approved by the board.

To make this statement appear ridiculous Senator Linsion discovered, through his examination of the witness, that the proceedings of this great trust since 1882 is all contained in seventy pages of written matter mostly consisting of by-laws, headings and names of trustees present at meetings.

In answer to the question of Senator Arnold, Mr. Archbold said: "I have sat in the councils of the Standard Oil Company for thirteen years, and I have never in that time heard anything said regarding the prospecting upon the rights of any of its competitors."

Col. Bliss thought this a case of "I'm no such person; besides, I have no competitors."

The Table and Stair Oil Cloth Association's trust monopoly was again taken up, with Horace W. Fowler, commissioner of the trust, on the stand.

A circular issued by this association, which has already been made public, was offered in evidence and Col. Bliss proceeded to examine the witness as to particulars.

To this Senator Langbein objected and intimated that Col. Bliss's line of examination was favorable to the association.

Col. Bliss submitted that his examination was against the interests of the trust.

Senator Langbein—On that point we differ. Col. Bliss—I am happy that we do. Senator Langbein—I regret it, as you are the committee's counsel.

This little storm over the Colonel went on with his examination, and showed that the association administers extra-judicial oaths to its salesmen not to sell goods below association prices, and fixed heavy penalties on both members and salesmen for violation of oaths and agreements.

The association also fixes the prices at which the products of other manufacturers can be sold.

Mr. Fowler also testified to the organization of the Wall-Paper Association (now extinct), the American Paper Company, an association of sand-paper manufacturers, and the United Refining Company, which controls the pitch and tar business.

Robinson Gill testified about a freestone quarry known as the Master Stone-Cutters' association.

The contentious John E. Parsons finally reduced the Sugar Trust agreement, stipulating that the distribution of the capitalization be kept secret.

Col. Bliss announced that the committee had not had time to investigate these trusts:

Lead, lead pencils, cartridges and steel, watches and watch-cases, clothes-wringers, carpets, nails, umbrellas and a mass, cordage, plated ware, steel rails and the hog slaughterers' trust.

The committee then announced the inquiry closed.

New Edition of Barnum's Book.

R. T. Barnum has just issued a new edition of his book, the "Life of R. T. Barnum," written by himself.

The text, which is brought up to 1888, is embellished by several new full-page illustrations.

The price of the book has been reduced from \$1.50 to 75 cents.

London and Liverpool Clothing Company.

80 AND 82 BOWERY.

will open their store on Saturday next, March 3, when they will continue the sale of their remaining stock of winter clothing.

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